

In one incident in July 1764, the customs ship HMS St. John seized cargo and a brig in Newport Harbor. Rhode Islanders deemed this outright theft. The Governor, Stephen Hopkins, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence, ordered the arming of a sloop to go out and take on the St. John in open battle on the bay.

The British got wind of it, and they reinforced the St. John with the powerfully armed, if meekly named, HMS Squirrel. So the Rhode Islanders scrapped their plans for a naval battle and settled for firing on the St. John from fortifications on Goat Island with 13-pounder canons.

When the HMS Maidstone impressed into servitude an entire crew of colonists, Rhode Islanders carried one of Maidstone's boats that they were able to seize from Newport Harbor to the city commons and burned it, with hundreds of onlookers cheering.

The Royal Navy impounded prominent merchant John Hancock's sloop, the Liberty, in 1768. Even after the charges of illegal wine importation that had justified the seizure supposedly were dropped, the British Navy kept his ship and used it for themselves for more customs enforcement. The next year, colonists in Newport reclaimed the Liberty by force.

These simmering maritime hostilities set the backdrop for the fateful meeting of the Hannah and the Gaspee in 1772.

As the Hannah sailed north up the bay on June 9, the Gaspee intercepted her and ordered the crew to stop for a search. The Hannah's captain, Benjamin Lindsey, was having none of it, and he did not comply. He held his course and continued sailing north toward Providence.

Warning shots were fired from the Gaspee. Despite them, Lindsey continued on. His smaller and more maneuverable vessel led the bigger Gaspee up north toward Namquid Point. Well, the waters off Namquid Point shoal, and there are shallows off Namquid Point. Lindsey, as an experienced navigator and sailor in Narragansett Bay, knew this, and he sailed his Hannah over the shallows and kept on up to Providence. Behind them, the angry Gaspee came surging in chase and ground into the sand and stuck.

Aground off Pawtuxet Cove, the Gaspee would need to wait for the next high tide before it could float free. Night closed in on the Gaspee. There was no Moon. Lieutenant Dudingston and his crew were left to wait in darkness and exposed.

Captain Lindsey sailed the Hannah on up to Providence, and up in Providence, he immediately arranged a meeting of local patriots in a tavern called Sabin's Tavern, which still exists under another name today, in what is now the East Side of Providence, just below Brown University. Together, and no doubt after refreshments, the group decided to end the career of the Gaspee once and for all.

Several boatloads of Rhode Islanders, led by John Brown—later to have Brown University named for him—and Abraham Whipple—an ancestor, I believe, of Ms. Whipple McDougall—disguised themselves and boarded longboats in the night and rowed the 6 miles from Providence down the bay to the Gaspee. There, they surrounded the boat, and Brown called on Lieutenant Dudingston to surrender his ship.

The lieutenant refused and ordered his men to fire on anyone who tried to board and warned the Rhode Islanders of that threat. Well, the Rhode Islanders were having none of that. They stormed the Gaspee in the dark, and a melee ensued. Shots were fired. Swords clashed. In the struggle, Dudingston was shot and wounded by a musket ball—the first blood there of conflict between the Colonies and the Crown; the first blood, one could say, of the American Revolution drawn right there off Pawtuxet Cove.

The struggle ended with the Rhode Islanders in control of the vessel. Brown and Whipple's men ferried the British crew safely to shore, sought medical treatment for Lieutenant Dudingston, and then returned to the abandoned Gaspee to make sure it never carried a Rhode Islander again. To get rid of it for good, they set it on fire and retreated from the boat to watch it burn and burn until the fire reached the powder magazines and, when the fire reached the powder magazines, explode into the Narragansett Bay night, blowing the remainder of the Gaspee to smithereens and leaving it all to burn to the waterline.

Today, we Rhode Islanders call the site of these events Gaspee Point. Every year in early June, we celebrate the spirit of Rhode Island defiance that blossomed that day in Narragansett Bay 249 years ago. We will walk a parade in honor of Gaspee Day this weekend, and we will always remember the Gaspee raid, how it preceded by over a year the Boston Tea Party, and how, while those noble Bostonians pushed tea bags off of British ships into Boston Harbor, we blew the boat up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, nearly 5 years ago, our State, Nation, the city of Orlando, and Hispanic and LGBTQ communities were attacked, and 49 innocent and beautiful lives were lost. It was an evil act—an act of terrorism—designed to divide us as a nation and strike fear in our hearts and minds but instead we came together; we supported each other; and we persevered. We proved to the world what we in Florida already knew: Floridians are resilient.

The days I spent in Orlando following the shooting will always be with me. I talked to many parents who lost their children. I went to funerals and wakes. And I sat in hospital rooms. As a father

and grandfather, it was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. It was heartbreaking.

But in this horribly dark time, the selfless courage of so many, from community members to law enforcement, to healthcare workers, provided a sense of hope. This incredible strength, love, and bravery lifted up Orlando and the State of Florida and helped us begin to rebuild.

This week, on the fifth anniversary of this unthinkable tragedy, the State of Florida comes together to honor the lives lost too soon. And we vow to always stand up and fight against evil and hatred in this world.

Now I yield the floor to my colleague from Florida, Senator RUBIO.

Mr. RUBIO. Most Americans remember that horrifying day 5 years ago. I certainly do. I remember it was a morning, and I started getting text messages that something horrifying had happened in our home State. As we turned on the news, we could see that it already had been the deadliest attack on American soil since September 11 of 2001.

And the full horror of that day, of that night, came into focus, as I remember jumping in my truck and driving 3 hours to be on the scene. And it would be a few more days, or a few more hours, before we learned that it was an attack that was inspired by an ideology of hatred by an individual inspired by—who had pledged allegiance to a foreign terrorist organization, and in that context appeared there on that evening. It was an evening of tragedy.

It was, as Senator SCOTT mentioned, Latin night at the Pulse nightclub. This was a well-known nightclub in the LGBTQ community in Central Florida. And one would think no one should ever be—the last thing someone is worried about when they go out for a night with their friends is that they are going to be attacked by a radical jihadist terrorist in the United States.

We had seen similar attacks in London and France. And the realization that that could happen in Florida, just down the street from a small business furniture store whose owners I had gotten to know shook everyone, shook me.

Like most terrorist attacks, it sought not only to bring death but division and fear, to terrorize; and, clearly, there is a tremendous amount of pain that 5 years later is still there.

But from it, what also occurred was that it brought Floridians together, particularly those in Central Florida—first, hand in hand to grieve and then to preserve the memory of those whose lives were lost. The outpouring of love and support came not only from Florida but from Americans from all across the United States who shared in our grief and drew inspiration from the State's resilience.

Five years later, the process of mourning continues. The process of remembrance continues, but so, too, is Orlando as united as it was 5 years ago. It is a reminder to us that even with

all the challenges and threats we face, the threat of a radical, hateful ideology that can inspire people living here to take such horrifying actions, is something we should remain vigilant about.

And I want to thank my colleague Senator SCOTT for allowing me to partner with him on this resolution to remember not just that tragic day and to support the national Pulse Memorial but also to extend our continued condolences to those who suffered so greatly on that evening and to remind a nation of how we must remain vigilant against those who seek to terrorize.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Florida for participating in this with me. It was a devastating day 5 years ago for all of us in Florida and around the Nation.

Today, I am requesting all my colleagues join us to honor the memory of the 49 lives lost and come together to say their nation will always stand against hate and evil in this world.

I will be asking consent for the Senate to pass a resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack of the Pulse nightclub, cosponsored by my colleague from Florida, Senator RUBIO, and legislation designating the location of the Pulse nightclub in Orlando as the National Pulse Memorial to serve as a tribute to the victims and a reminder for us to always stand for love and kindness over hate and evil in this world. It is also cosponsored by my colleague from Florida, Senator RUBIO, and my colleague from California, Senator PADILLA. I hope my colleagues join us in the effort today.

DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL LOCATED AT 1912 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 1605 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1605) to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1605) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1605

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, is designated as the “National Pulse Memorial”.

(b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The national memorial designated by subsection (a) is not a unit of the National Park System.

(2) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—The designation of the national memorial by subsection (a) shall not require or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose relating to the national memorial.

DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL LOCATED AT 1912 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 32806

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 49 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 49) to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 49) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 265, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 265) honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 265) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, it is with heavy heart that I stand here today and remember this dark day in Florida's history. I thank my colleagues for joining me to honor the 49 lives lost far too soon in a terror attack on Pulse nightclub nearly 5 years ago. While nothing can ever bring back the lives lost, I am glad we are able to come together to stand for love and kindness over hate and evil in this world.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we have a tendency in this Chamber to talk about hindsight being 20/20, and I think that this is what we will be doing in 10 or 20 years when we look back on the Biden administration. I really expect that we will highlight all of the big talk here in DC that has led to some really bad ideas the White House has tried to legitimize through legislation and budget requests.

If you remember, even before the 2020 election, Biden's big talk on amnesty welcomed the hundreds of thousands of migrants who are currently flooding the southern border. He said: We expect to see these migrants at the border.

So, yes, they heard him say, “Y'all come,” and they are coming.

His big talk on Green New Deal programs got us the boondoggle of an infrastructure package that all but ignores roads, bridges, and broadband. The people in Memphis, TN, have not appreciated some of this talk of other items as infrastructure. They want bridge repairs immediately. Then, just before Memorial Day, we got some more big talk in the form of his \$6 trillion budget request that reads like an instruction manual on how to make our country less secure, less free, and less competitive.

Back home in Tennessee, people looked at this thing, and they didn't believe what they were seeing. At church last Sunday, I had some friends ask me if the budget proposal was supposed to be a joke or if this were serious because, when they look around, they see real need. They see communities without broadband, small businesses that are struggling to get back on their feet, and crumbling roads and bridges.

Yet what did the administration choose to do with their first budget? They turned away from those needs. They decided to throw billions of dollars at the environmental lobby to make it happy. They put in money to